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25TH DISTRICT, TEXAS

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September 21, 2020

The Honorable Betsy DeVos  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20202-3100

Dear Secretary DeVos,

Thank you for your commitment to students and teachers in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. It's important that we continue working together to assist the American people during such unprecedented circumstances. As you may already be aware, there is an issue within the Impact Aid program that could be detrimental to schools that serve military families for years to come. Attendance, due to the government-imposed shutdowns has been greatly affected, and school district in TX-25 are having difficulty accurately determining the number of eligible students for this years Impact Aid application. This could potentially lead to federally impacted schools receiving less funding than they deserve. We must ensure our school districts receive the funding they need to properly serve our military families and communities.

In order to mitigate these negative effects caused by COVID-19, I urge you to use your discretion to ensure schools will receive equitable funding for their Impact Aid applications. To achieve this goal, school districts should be permitted to use their Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 student count and property valuation for their FY 2022 Impact Aid applications. This temporary change would ensure that school districts are not penalized by the uncertainty in student attendance amid this global pandemic.

Every American has been impacted by the COVID-19, but the risks of the pandemic extend beyond the virus itself. It is critical we provide our federally impacted school districts this flexibility with their FY 2022 Impact Aid application. This funding is crucial for these school districts to continue serving our military families and students. I look forward to discussing this matter with you more in the near future.

In God We Trust,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Roger Williams".

Roger Williams  
Member of Congress